TMA 01

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Word limit: 1,000 words

When you have completed this assignment, submit it via the eTMA system to arrive no later than midday on **8 November 2018**.

In no more than 1000 words, write your answer to the following question:

Based on what you read in Chapter 3, assess the experience of being a child in the early modern period.

Guidance notes

This TMA requires you to write an essay in answer to the set question. Before you begin, read the advice on essay writing given in the A223 Assessment guide.

Children are discussed throughout the chapter, and associated material, in relation to a variety of issues: their mortality and the sentiment they inspired; their abandonment; the fate of orphans. You will quickly realise that no source produced by children themselves is examined in the chapter and this is a limitation for any assessment of their experience. However, you have analysed a variety of data, from graphs and tables to more narrative accounts of decisions that affected children, and have also read about historians' discussions about this; there is enough material to draw some conclusion. Do not worry if you feel that you lack deeper knowledge about children: you are not expected to make any bold statement about being an early modern child. Just reflect on what you have read and come to some conclusion. You may consider mortality rates, issues surrounding illegitimacy and abandonment, the experience of kinship. You may also discuss what historians say about parental love. These are just some points you may want to consider, but others may be equally relevant.

More than anything else, the TMA is designed to help you develop skills of critical reading and essay writing that will be essential in the rest of the module. You are advised to re-read the chapter, 'Households, families and populations' and the section 'The family' in the chapter 'Gender and Family' of the set book, but then concentrate on section 3.2 'Children' in Book 1 *Individuals, lives and livings* and especially on online session 3.1 'Measuring and counting' (entirely) and online session 3.2 'Skim reading and note taking' (limited to exercise 3 which is based on the extract 'Social differences in family demography').

You have been guided closely in your first reading of this material, and have been instructed to prepare various kinds of summaries; the discussions in the online sessions provide further help. The challenge now is to pick from your reading what pertains to children, pull it together and use it selectively to support the argument you want to make. It is important that you make a detailed plan of the three or four points you want to develop and identify the evidence you plan to use to support each one; this will help you give a solid structure to your essay.

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